

# 50 YEARS A CLUB





When the Engineering School was shifted to Shenton's Villa in 1914 from Irwin Street, the very isolation and inaccessibility of the site formed a strong bond between Engineering students.

The war intervened and many students saw active service - five dying in the service of their country. After the war, the students, affected by the dance craze, held many small shows in lecture rooms and drawing offices. The success of these dances led to the Engineers' Ball of 1919.

The growth of this function finally necessitated the formation of a formal club. At a meeting of the Crawley Undergraduates on 8 September 1921, Mr. Morrison moved that 'a Club be formed called the D.B.A.' This club one year later became officially the University Engineers' Club.

In 1927 the club received a boost with the opening of the Engineering Hall. Now not only could the club hold its Ball at Crawley but also two common rooms were allotted for the Club's use.

The present Engineers' Crest originally created as a decoration for the 1930 Ball to hide a hideous clock at the North end of the hall. The meeting at which Mr. Hearder described the proposed crest was thrown into uproar when informed of the intended outline of a bottle to be included. Several members were silenced only when the undertaking was put as a motion and passed. Two Civil students, Munro and Manners, were assigned the task of painting the design, which on completion received State wide acclaim.

That same year saw also the acceptance of Mr. Gillespie's proposal that Engineering freshmen be initiated.

The faculties joined the Engineers at Crawley in 1932. The result of this was a sudden upsurge in inter faculty rivalry. The Engineers had their crest embroidered upon a banner, which immediately became the object of envy of the Science Union who possessed only a red and green rag. Marching under this rag, the S.U. engaged the Engineers in battle, only to be defeated and lose their own banner.

Several Science students, posing as Engineers, conned the President's landlady into handing over the Engineers' banner. A truce followed and the banners were exchanged.

At the Graduation ceremony in 1942, the S.U. displayed its banner surrounded by a massive bodyguard. As they entered Winthrop Hall, an Engineer located above on a balcony hooked the banner up with a fishing line. The banner was relayed by runners strategically placed between Winthrop Hall and Engineering and locked away in the Professor's safe.

The S.U. banner was almost lost when at a 'battle' in the Sunken Garden possession alternated between Science students and Engineers. The Engineers retained 80% of the S.U. banner and used it at a foot-wiping ceremony the following Friday. The remaining shred is now fixed to the Engineers' banner preserved in the Professor's safe.

In 1933, Mr. Goyder presented a cup for inter-faculty competition. The Engineers held this cup from this date until 1957, when it was given to the club. The competition (under new rules) was rejuvenated in 1962, and although not as successful as before the Engineers have always figured prominently.

The club has always participated in Graduation stunts, but these were forcefully terminated following the 1954 ceremony. Several first year Engineers carried seven sheep into Winthrop Hall before the ceremony and caused such an outcry that students were not invited the following year and the Hall was guarded as cosely as an American Embassy.

The first Engineering Exhibition was held in 1956, and because of its success it was made a biennial event. This year the Exhibition covered the whole campus as the University Exhibition, but still relied heavily on the Engineering displays.

The inaugural Tug of War was held in 1958 against Medicine. Although we have never lost the tug, the R.U. Pulling trophy lies in the Lawyers' citadel, whisked away under a barrage of cannon fire and flour bombs from the Engineers.

1961 saw the opening of the present Engineering buildings and the club holding its first Symposium. The Engineers also introduced the Inter-Faculty Bath Tub Race and U.E.C. News.

The years following saw changes in the club, both in size and structure. The old five-year course was dropped and a high pressure four-year course introduced. The Club doubled in size in a decade and a building designed for 400 students had to cope with half that number again. Classes were split and club spirit dropped to the post-war level.

This year has seen a revival of that spirit emanating, surprisingly, from the freshers, who held several successful rallies against the Law buildings, supported the Club in Goyder Cup, and strengthened the Club financially by attending the shows. Through such participation, it is hoped Club traditions will survive and continue to provide a proud record for future Engineers.